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HOMEWORK BY HPTM. BOEDIGHEIMER, OF

IV/NACHR. REGIMENT 506

Attached is a translation of a report written at our request by Hptm. BOEDIGHEIMER, formerly C.O. of Signals Abteilung 3 of F.A.Tr. ((Front Recce Troops)), from 1/3/45 of IV/Signals Rgt. 506. The report deals with W/T traffic of German line crossers. It is dated 6/10/45, was written at OBERURSEL P/W Camp and was received from Director, S.I.D., USFET.

Trans: WRL.

TICOM

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1) Cipher Regulations = The rule according to which encipherment is carried out and the cipher data are to be compiled. There were regulations for machine and hand ciphers. The hand cipher systems which were used in our area were all double transposition in principle and only differed from each other by peculiarities designed to make unauthorized breaking more difficult and to prevent the recognition of the language in which encipherment was carried out. Since 1943 it was strictly forbidden to use "home-made" cipher systems. There was at the same time more than one set of regulations valid, i.e. authorized for use. Regulations which no longer satisfied security requirements were made invalid.

Distribution of cipher regulations to the Abteilung:

a) for general signals traffic (teleprinter, wireless) by OKH, Chef HNW and OKW, Stab WNV, Abteilung Chi.

b) for agents' wireless traffic by OKW, Stab WNW/Chi.

2) Cipher Data were compiled on the basis of the regulations, (see paragraph 1).

a) for teleprinter traffic by OKH, Chef HNW.

b) for general wireless traffic to the rear and laterally by Signals Regiment 506, forward by the Abteilung or its companies and platoons as the case might be.

c) for agents' wireless traffic by the Abteilung or its companies and platoons as the case might be.

Changed daily, with c), however, only according to the completion of the transposition grid.

3) Wireless Data = Call-signs, frequencies, times for traffic exactly as in paragraph 2 "Cipher Data". Change of call-signs daily. Special call-signs for each frequency. Point to point traffic only with 2 frequencies. Usually 2, often 3 frequencies in agents' traffic on both sides. Still more spare frequencies in the general wireless traffic.

4) Traffic and general abbreviations

a) in general wireless traffic more or less the same as in international, commercial traffic, laid down by Signals Regiment 506.

b) in agents' wireless traffic special abbreviations determined by the abteilung after inquiries into the matter made to the Signals Reconnaissance or Wireless Monitoring unit directly concerned (cf. paragraph 5).

5) Camouflage of Agents' Wireless Traffic and other security measures.

a) Assimilation of characteristics of enemy wireless traffic. Generally carried out within the area of the Abteilung from 1943. Previously only isolated conformation to Russian army W/T procedure. Wireless messages partly in 5-letter groups, partly in 5-figure groups. Since 1943 assimilation, in cooperation with the

signals reconnaissance unit concerned, of wireless characteristics of Russian partisan traffic, since the latter was not continually being changed, like army traffic, the volume of traffic was adequate and the frequency range corresponded to that used by us. "Wireless Characteristics" covers all characteristic distinguishing signs in the conduct of traffic such as call-up, reply, contact traffic, message transmission, receipt traffic and general abbreviations.

Call-signs: 3 letters of the Russian alphabet, seldom with a figure but if so almost always in the middle.

Preamble: Message number, degree of urgency (i.e. rdo* ssd [-most urgent] etc), number of groups or letters, dividing sign. I can no longer remember whether (Ka) was given at the beginning of the preamble - I think it was. With the exception of the number of groups or letters, all details in the preamble were of no importance, being merely fictitious.

Text: Five-figure groups, whether the last group was made up to a complete group or not I no longer remember. I believe that both cases occurred. "r" as a divider between the groups.

Finish: (ar). Uncertain whether (sk) was put at the end of traffic.

Receipt: I believe "rok".

Example: (ka) okt 87 - rdo - 15 - 10831 r 41439 r .....etc., total of 15 groups 22844 r 18644 (ar)

I believe that the abbreviations were very similar to those used in amateur traffic. Only necessary abbreviations were learnt.

Conformation to Polish agents' and partisan wireless traffic was ultimately worked out, but was not tested or put into practice and I can no longer remember details. I seem to remember, however, that the abbreviations were very similar to the amateur abbreviations, but that in the case of the Q abbreviations an "X" was substituted for the "Q".

b) Good training in morse and W/T transmission so that traffic periods were short.

c) In the event of bad traffic conditions, rather break-off and postpone traffic than prolong it by continuous queries and repeats.

d) 2 or 3 traffic times during the day and 2 or 3 frequencies which could be used at choice depending on traffic conditions.

* Trns. Note: Expansion not known.

c) Wireless might only be used when reports were to be passed. As a general rule call-up only by the agent. Exception only in the event of a lengthy silence of 8 to 14 days. Then only quite short contact traffic permitted. Together with d) very irregular traffic resulted which must have been difficult for the enemy wireless intercept service to cover and keep track of. The wireless discipline taught was naturally, in practice, not always adhered to by the agents, sometimes traffic might be protracted, or assume a too regular form.

f) Never send plain language by wireless and never details of frequency or time in plain language.

g) Do not repeat call-signs in cross-traffic.

6) I can no longer recall details of cipher data (paragraph 1) and the camouflage of agents' wireless traffic (paragraph 5a). With reference to paragraph 5a errors and omissions must be taken into account. It is considerably more than 2 years ago since I was personally actively engaged with these matters, which I was until things were running smoothly. Later on, the mechanical routine work was done by specialist N.C.O's. In spite of the lengthy period since the agents' wireless training was stopped, Wachtmeister Müller may probably be able to give more complete details of cipher data and wireless characteristics in agents wireless traffic since he was working on this subject daily. He was interrogated in Freising in August and September and has, perhaps, already given such particulars.

As OC of the Abteilung I conducted this part of my general activities by showing initiative, giving encouragement and direction, maintaining control and overcoming any shortcomings but naturally I did not occupy myself with details or with purely routine work. As far as magnitude and importance were concerned my chief task was the direction of the Abteilung as a signals troop with its widely scattered units and the organisation and maintenance of the extensive signals network (telephone, teleprinter and wireless links) of the Frontaufklärung units under the changing circumstances of constantly mobile warfare.

7) As an elucidation of terminology note:- When "Nachrichten", "Nachrichten" traffic, "Nachrichten" communications, means of "Nachrichten", "Nachrichten" Troop (regiment, abteilung) are referred to here, (as throughout the army), these expressions are to be taken in the sense of "Signal" corps, "Signal" regiment etc., while "Nachrichten" about the enemy (agents' wireless messages for instance) are designated "Meldungen" [reports]. The "Nachrichten" abteilung carries out "Nachrichten" service, that is telephone, teleprinter and wireless service. The Frontaufklärung carries out "Melde" [reporting] service. The "Nachrichten" abteilung is not concerned with this apart from the purely signals side - the wireless training of some of the agents and the operation of wireless communication with them.

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